The Star & Sentinel.

Friday, Jan. 8, 1869.

Advertisers and Business men will bear in mind that the regular circulation of the "STAR AND SENTINEL" is much larger than that of any other paper published in the County, being read weekly by not less than 11,000 souls.

A NUMBER of articles in type have been crowded out to make room for the Governor's message.

WE surrender the larger portion of to-day's paper to the Governor's Message, which we publish in full. It is a model State paper, taken up almost exclusively with a consideration of practical questions connected with State Legislation. Governor GEARY gives a plain, terse resume of the various matters of general interest demanding the attention of the Legislature and the people, and the reader will find in the message a most satisfactory exhibit of the finances of the State, and other matters. The State Debt has been largely reduced under the operation of the Sinking Fund, but the Governor insists upon the most rigid economy in legislation, with a view to lessen the drafts on the Treasury. He advises a sale of the Bonds held by the State, growing out of the sale of the public works, and the application of the proceeds to the payment of the principal of the State Debt. The message is brief—the views judicious—and we bespeak for it the careful perusal of our readers, as in striking contrast to the wordy, arrogant, dictatorial style of President JOHNSON'S Messages. Gov. GEARY has a just conception of the relative duties and perogatives of the Executive and Legislative branches of the Government, and while modestly and frankly stating his own views when necessary, he is evidently disposed to defer largely to the judgment of the Legislature as the law-making power. The message closes with a pertinent reference to national affairs and the great popular triumph of November.

THE contest for U. States Senator, to succeed Mr. BUCKALEW, was virtually settled by the caucus of Republican Senators and Members, at Harrisburg, on Wednesday last, Hon. JOHN SCOTT, of Huntingdon county, receiving the nomination. He will of course be elected. In his nomination the intellect and virtue of the State nobly asserted themselves. He is one of the most eminent lawyers and purest citizens of the Commonwealth, of whose interests we doubt not he will prove a faithful guardian and manly representative. Other excellent names were suggested—honored names in the Republican party, and accepted as such throughout the nation. But it is no reflection upon them to say that the selection finally made is one of which all may justly be proud.

Mr. SCOTT is about 48 years of age, a native of Huntingdon county. He studied law in Chambersburg, and was in the legislature one or two years during the war, but has made his reputation chiefly at the Bar. In politics, he was a Douglas Democrat, but earnestly and unfalteringly espoused the cause of the country when assailed by the Southern Democracy. He is an advanced Republican. He has been active, on the stump for many years, and was President of the Republican Judicial Convention which met at Williamsport in 1867. Our State contains no abler or purer man; and we congratulate all the citizens thereof upon his election.

THE Legislature met on Tuesday last, and both Houses were promptly organized by electing the nominees of the Republican caucus. WILLIAM WORTHINGTON, of Chester, was elected Speaker of the Senate, by a vote of 18 to 15, CHARLETON BURNETT, of Monroe, being voted for by the Democrats. The officers of the Senate are:

Chief Clerks—George W. Hamersley, of Germantown.

Assistant Clerk—Lucius Rogers of McKean, and F. H. Braggins, of Mercer.

Transcribing Clerks—Ebenezer Williams, of Pittsburg; H. C. Bosler, of Montgomery; Charles Williams, of Philadelphia, and John Anderson, of Beaver.

Sergeant-at-arms—William A. Rupert, of Crawford.

Mr. WHITE, of Indiana, introduced the following resolution, which led to a protracted discussion, Mr. WALLACE and other Democratic Senators opposing it, and it was withdrawn:

Resolved, That, if the House concur, John Burns, of Gettysburg, whose patriotic courage at the battle of Gettysburg is familiar to the people of Pennsylvania, be and he is hereby continued as Assistant Doorkeeper of the Senate for the session of 1869.

JOHN CLARK, of Philadelphia, was elected Speaker of the House, receiving 60, and Mr. JOSEPHS, the Democratic nominee, 37 votes.. The other officers elected are:

Chief Clerk—Gen. James L. Selfridge, of Northampton.

Resident Clerk—John A. Smull, of Harrisburg.

Assistant Clerk—E. G. Lee, of Philadelphia.

Transcribing Clerks—G. A. Magee, Philo Burritt, W. B. Irwin, J. D. Miller, R. Bernard, Charles Tubbs, George A. Bakoven.

Sergeant-at-arms—Joseph M. Cowell, of Philadelphia.

Postmaster—A. G. Henry, of Armstrong.

Assistant Postmaster—A. W. Kimmell, of Indiana.

Messenger—James M'Calley, of Philadelphia.

CONGRESS re-assembled on Tuesday with a quorum in both Houses. In the Senate a debate was caused by the introduction by Mr. FERRY of a resolution of inquiry as to the authority of the President to issue his recent Amnesty Proclamation. Mr. FERRY said that, whilst he was in favor of amnesty, he doubted the authority of the President to confer it in this sweeping way. Messrs. Howard, Frelinghuysen and Conkling concurred in doubting the power of the President to pardon by general proclamation. Messrs. DOOLITTLE and DAVIS defended the President's action. At the close of the debate the resolution was adopted.

THE Philadelphia *Morning Post*, started as a penny paper a year or so ago, has been very successful, and now makes its appearance greatly enlarged and will hereafter be issued as a two cent paper. The *Post* is a bold, outspoken advocate of the principles of the Republican party, an enemy of political rings and corruption, and is conducted with an editorial tact and ability that is always sure to command success.

THE general impression is that there will be a March session of the 41st Congress, and the question of organization is being agitated by the Republican members. Messrs. BLAINE, of Maine, and DAWES, of Massachusetts, are the most prominent candidates for Speaker. Despatches from Washington say that Mr. MCPHERSON will have no opponent for the Clerkship among his party, and it is probable the Democrats will vote for him also.

ROBERT W. MACKEY, cashier of the Allegheny National Bank of Pittsburg, was nominated for State Treasurer—Gen. IRWIN, the present incumbent, declining.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN:—For the harmony and general relations of comity and friendship existing between Pennsylvania and all the other States and Territories of the National Union; for the present prosperous condition of the Commonwealth; for the glad signs of coming political tranquility; and for the success which attends the progress of our free institutions, we owe a heavy debt of gratitude to Divine Providence. In view of the favorable circumstances under which you are now assembled, it becomes my province and duty, as it is my pleasure, to offer you my hearty congratulations, and to tender you a cordial welcome to the Legislative Halls of the State. This, indeed, affords me a higher gratification because I participate with your constituents in the confidence manifested by them in selecting you to represent their individual interests as well as those of the Commonwealth. On your wisdom, integrity, judgment and discretion, all will undoubtedly rely—for the correct determination of every question affecting the largest interests and gravest responsibilities, and for a continuance, and even an increase, of that prosperity which has hitherto been so signally enjoyed.

It is not without a consciousness of the great responsibility resting upon me that I undertake the performance of a constitutional duty, requiring that the Governor "shall from time to time give to the General Assembly information of the state of the Commonwealth, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge expedient." In conformity with this requirement your attention will be called only to such matters of public interest as in my judgment deserve careful consideration and action on your part during the present session.

FINANCES.

The following is a carefully prepared statement of the financial condition of the State for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1867:

The reports of the Auditor General and State Treasurer shows that the balance in the Treasury, November 30, 1867, was		$4,661,836 46
Ordinary receipts during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1868		5,216,049 55
Depreciated funds in the Treasury, unavailable		41,032 00
Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1868		$9,918,918 01
Payments, viz:		
Ordinary expenses during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1868	$2,454,506 09	
Loans, &c., redeemed	4,417,463 64	
Other payments	12,600 00	
Interest on loans	1,979,960 91	
Depreciated funds, unavailable	41,032 00	
		9,905,492 64
Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1868		$1,013,415 37

SINKING FUND.

By an act approved April 10, 1868, the transactions of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund were ordered to be thereafter reported annually to the 30th day of November. Their last report, therefore, includes a period of one year and three months.

The following is the "recapitulation" of the operations of the sinking fund, from September 3, 1867, to November 30, 1868:

Balance in fund September 3, 1867		$1,737,912 41
Receipts in fund from September 3, 1867, to November 30, 1868		3,418,992 1
		5,156,904 72
Paid interest	$1,808,005 84	
Premiums paid as equivalent for coin	49 98	
Loans redeemed	2,414,816 64	
		4,222,871 96
Balance in fund November 30, 1868		$934,032 76

By the sixth section of the act of May 16, 1861, a special tax of one-half mill on the dollar was specially set apart for the payment of the interest and redemption of the loan created by an act of May 18, 1861, entitled "An Act to create a loan and provide for arming the State."

Balance on hand September 3, 1867		$319,522 17
The receipts from mill tax and tax on gross receipts from September 3, 1867, to November 30, 1868, amount to		423,979 20
Total		743,501 37
Interest paid in January and July, 1868		169,345 40
Balance in fund November 30, 1868		$574,057 7

CONDITION OF BALANCES.

Balance in sinking fund November 30, 1868	$934,032 76	
Balance in sinking fund November 30, 1868	574,057 37	
		$1,508,700 13
Deduct balance in Treasury, November 30, 1868		1,013,415 37
Balance in favor of sinking fund		$495,284 76

REDUCTION OF THE STATE DEBT.

By the report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund for the year ending September 3, 1867, the "loans redeemed" amounted to $1,794,569 50, and by their report from September 3, 1867, to November 30, 1868, the "loans redeemed" amounted to $2,414,816 64, making a total reduction of the State debt, in two years and three months, of $4,209,386 14.

The assets remaining in the Sinking Fund are as follow, viz:—Bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, $6,400,000, and bonds of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company, $3,500,000. These are non-interest bearing bonds and will not mature for many years. I, therefore, recommend to the consideration of the Legislature the propriety of the passage of a law, authorizing the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to sell these bonds at public sale to the highest bidder, and direct the proceeds to be applied to the liquidation of the State debt.

PUBLIC DEBT.

Public debt outstanding December 1, 1867		$37,704,409 77
Deduct the amount redeemed at State Treasury during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1868, viz:		
5 per cent. loans	$4,324,253 64	
4½ per cent. loans	83,000 00	
Relief notes cancelled	210 00	
		4,417,463 64
Public debt December 1, 1868		$33,286,046 13

Statement showing the condition of the indebtedness of the Commonwealth on the first day of December, 1868.

Funded debt, viz:		
6 per cent. loans	$26,311,180 00	
5 per cent. loans	7,149,771 56	
4½ per cent. loans	112,000 00	
Total funded		$33,372,951 56
Unfunded debt, viz:		
Relief notes in circulation	$96,416 00	
Interest certificates outstanding	13,086 62	
Interest certificates unclaimed	4,449 36	
Domestic creditors' certificates	44 67	
Total unfunded		113,994 67
Total funded and unfunded		$33,486,046 13

Which is the amount of the State debt as before stated.

During the last eighteen years there has been carried upon the accounts of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, and in their several public statements, "depreciated funds unavailable" to the amount of $41,082. I recommend the appointment of a joint committee, by the Legislature, whose duty it shall be to examine the said depreciated and unavailable funds and dispose of them to the best advantage of the Treasury; or, if found to be worthless, to cancel and destroy them, so that the accounting officers may be relieved from the necessity and responsibility of annually accounting for them.

The large cash balance remaining in the Treasury on the 30th of November, 1867, has been used for the payment of the twenty-three million loan and for the liquidation of outstanding claims against the State.—The investment of the funds, in one of the modes recommended in my last annual message, has, therefore, in a great measure been rendered unnecessary for the present. But in the event of large accumulations of money hereafter, the recommendations therein given are respectfully referred to, and renewed. Whenever there may be surplus funds in the Treasury, they can, with safety and benefit to the State, be employed in the purchase of its outstanding bonds, and in saving the interest on them which would accumulate prior to their maturity.

The financial condition of the Legislature, although fully forewarned in regard to the security and want of proper and sufficient guards for the safe keeping of the money of the Commonwealth, failed to determine upon any mode by which the Treasury may be effectually guarded against the possibility of loss. The present Legislature has it in its power to secure for itself no ordinary honor, by the enactment of such a law, strong and efficient for the purpose indicated, and the enjoyment not only of the approbation, but the permanent gratitude of every citizen.

Notwithstanding the satisfactory reduction of the public indebtedness, as shown in the foregoing statements, an immense State debt is still upon us, requiring nearly $2,000,000 of dollars to be collected to pay the interest accruing upon it annually. Its extinguishment at the earliest practical period, not inconsistent with other public interests, is of the highest importance to every tax-payer. I cannot, therefore, too strongly urge the strictest economy in respect to every expenditure and the utmost retrenchment in every department.

Retrenchment is emphatically demanded by the people, in legislative expenditures, as well as in every other branch of the government. Their eyes are open to investigate every transaction, and by their ballots they are ready to strike down those who will not take effective action in favor of positive and radical reform. The money paid into the Treasury is the property of the people, every one of whom has a just right to hold his representatives to a strict accountability for every dollar that may be appropriated or expended.

I here renew the remarks made last year on the subject of "annual appropriations," to which you are respectfully referred. For four successive years the general appropriation bills have been signed on the eleventh day of April, being about the time of adjournment. The Governor has been forced either to sign the bills without proper investigation, notwithstanding any objections he may have; suspend the means to defray the operations of the government for the ensuing year; or call an extra session of the Legislature. I repeat that "it is earnestly desired that the appropriation bill be taken up, discussed and passed at a sufficiently early period during the session to enable it to receive that thorough examination which its importance demands."

EDUCATION.—COMMON SCHOOLS.

The annual report of the Superintendent of Common Schools exhibits the condition of that department in a highly satisfactory manner. Within the State there are 1,918 school districts; 13,766 schools; 2,382 graded schools; 11,698 school directors; 73 county city and borough superintendents; 16,771 teachers; and 800,515 pupils. The cost of tuition for the year was $3,273,269 43; of building, purchasing and renting school houses, $1,991,152 55; of contingences, $854,253.21. These three items, with expenditures for all other purposes connected therewith, amount to the aggregate sum of $6,200,537 96.

These facts are exhibited with great satisfaction, as they show the average annual cost for the tuition of each pupil to be about seven dollars and seventy-four and a half cents. The average amount paid to each teacher is about $195 17½ per annum.—This, in my opinion, is too small a salary to secure the services of competent teachers; and I am fully justified in urging the necessity of increased compensation. It is but just, and it will have an elevating tendency not only upon the teachers but the manner in which their duties are performed.

Your attention is called to the fact that, notwithstanding the ample provision now made by law for the education of all persons between the ages of six and twenty-one years, large numbers of children, principally in our cities, do not attend any kind of school. Over twenty thousand of this class are found in Philadelphia, and the number in the State is estimated to be not less than 75,000. These children grow up in ignorance, frequently without employment, and many of them contract habits of vice, which eventually cause them to be committed to houses of refuge, county prisons or penitentiaries. Humanity and sound policy demand that something be done to remedy this growing evil, and also that of the neglected condition of considerable numbers of children in the alms and poor houses in many of the counties.

Four Normal Schools are now recognized as State institutions. The number of students attending them during the past year was 2,115, of whom eighty graduated. Two additional Normal Schools will probably go into operation during this year, one located at Bloomsburg, Columbia county, and the other at California, Washington county.—The value of these institutions to the common school system cannot be estimated.—Our schools are comparatively worthless without qualified teachers, and such teachers can most easily be obtained from the Normal institutes, where the art of teaching is made a specialty.

A meeting of the presidents and other authorities of a number of our principal colleges was held in Harrisburg last winter, the object of which was to bring about a closer union of all our educational institutions, and connect by a bond of sympathy, if not of organic structure, the common schools, high schools, academies and colleges. The establishment of such an educational department seems to be desirable.

There is no subject more worthy the deliberations of the Legislature than the promotion of the welfare of our common schools. They immediately underlie the characteristic features of our social system; they are fountains of that wide-spread intelligence, which, like a perennial vitality, pervades the nation, and are nurseries of that inquiring spirit to which we are indebted for the purity and preservation of our free institutions. In a republican government education is a sure basis of power and public prosperity. By it the people are taught to discern and estimate the value of their own rights; to distinguish between oppression and the exercise of lawful authority; to discriminate between liberty and licentiousness; to preserve an inviolable respect for the laws, and exercise "eternal vigilance" against any encroachments upon them. It is admitted that a thoroughly educated people alone can be permanently free. By educational culture patriotism is expanded, and the principles, manners and sentiments of the whole people are assimilated. Many of the sources of jealousy and prejudice are diminished, social harmony largely increased, and the structure of our free and happy system of government cemented, strengthened and adorned.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' SCHOOLS.

In his report the Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphans' Schools exhibits the total expenditure for their support from December 1, 1867 to May 31, 1868, to be $286,970 26; total number of pupils in the schools 3,431; average cost per pupil $69 06½ for six months; and the average weekly expenses per pupil $2 65½. The fiscal year of these schools, like that of the common schools, terminates by law on the last day of May of each year. The present report of the Superintendent, therefore, embraces only six months, and reports will be made up to the 31st day of May, annually, hereafter. The special appropriation of February 25, 1868, made in accordance with an estimate of the Superintendent, presented in my last annual message, exceeded the actual expenses $6,004 74.

Notwithstanding every possible effort has been, and will continue to be made, to economize in the expenses of the present year, and to keep them as far as possible within the appropriation made by the last Legislature, it will readily be observed that there will be a deficit for the year ending May 31, 1869, the amount of which will be carefully ascertained and presented to the Legislature prior to the close of the present session.

The schools are all in good condition and improving, and their usefulness is daily becoming more manifest. They are among the most philanthropic institutions of the age, and reflect high honor on the patriotism of the Legislature by which they have been so liberally endowed and upon our people by whom they are sustained. The children who are the recipients of their benefits are the offspring of brave men who voluntarily endangered their lives in the cause of their country in the most trying hour of its existence, and as heroically as the noblest men in the world's history. Thousands of them who left their homes in the bloom of health and with the brightest hopes of manhood, now sleep in death, leaving their widows and little ones to the care of the country in whose service they fell, and which promised them its protection. Their children are the wards of this great Commonwealth; and too much praise cannot be awarded its people for the munificent and tender manner in which they have thus far, through their representatives, discharged the sacred and delicate trust.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Before the General Government appropriated public lands to the several States for the purpose of agricultural and military education and the mechanic arts, and prior to the time when Pennsylvania endowed the Agricultural College with her share of these lands, it was dependent wholly upon individual influence, without any other means for its support than its own earnings. History proves that seminaries of learning cannot be efficiently sustained by their own internal resources. The education of youth in the higher branches of knowledge seems to require the aid of philanthropic contributions. This institution had not these benefits to an adequate extent, and though the board of trustees bestowed upon it the most anxious care, their zeal and labor, combined with those of its friends, were not equal to a contest with the want of means. Hence the school did not command the confidence of farmers who were able to educate their sons, and who could not forget that the character of the college attached to the character of its graduates; and that its failure would enter into the estimate which the world would place upon the education it bestowed. This feature has now been removed. The people, through their Legislature, have endowed this institution with the interest upon a fund of $318,500 00, (invested in United States and Pennsylvania State six per cent. bonds,) payable to it semi-annually. Last year this interest amounted to $25,642 78. The residue of the fund, $43,886 50, has been appropriated, under the law, by the board of trustees, to the purchase of three model and experimental farms; one at the college, in Centre county, for $8,000 00, one in Chester county for $17,750 00, and one in Indiana county for $18,136 50. The board has also recently re-organized the faculty and remodeled the course of studies, so as to adapt them to the wants of the agricultural community. This new order of things goes into operation at the commencement of the next session, and it is earnestly hoped will be a success. There is no profession, trade or calling in life, where the value of knowledge and the lights of science, and the practical application of both, are so potent for profitable results as in their adaptation to agricultural pursuits. And in this truly practical age it is well worthy of the consideration of parents, whether they should not avail themselves of the benefits of this institution, now so generously endowed by the State.

MILITARY.

From the report of the Adjutant General you will learn the condition of the military Department. The inactivity in military affairs after the cessation of hostilities and upon the return of peace, has in a great measure been dispelled, and an active martial spirit now prevails throughout the State: more particularly in Philadelphia, where, by a special legislative enactment, the minimum number of men required to form a company has been reduced, and a brigade fund is raised by a tax upon those who are not members of a military organization, but liable to the performance of military duty. I recommend the passage of a similar law for the whole State. For the sake of preserving the great interests involved, which include the lives, property and happiness of our people, this is presented to you as an important subject for your deliberation.

Every possible encouragement of volunteers has been afforded, and notwithstanding the difficulties indicated it has resulted as follows: In 1866 there were eight volunteer companies in the State; in 1867, thirty-eight; and in 1868, seventy-seven, and a number of others in preparation for organization.

By a reduction of the number for a company from that now required to an aggregate of fifty officers and men, companies would soon be numbered by the hundred, any of which could easily be recruited to the maximum number if required for active service. The State that always maintains the highest degree of preparation, accomplishes most and suffers least in the conflict of arms; and by being in readiness it often prevents improper encroachments upon her rights.

The Adjutant General presents a full and detailed statement of the disbursements in his department during the year ending Nov ember 30, 1868, with an estimate for the necessary appropriations for the current year, and also for such amounts as have been discovered to be due from the Transportation Department, contracted during the war.

STATE AGENCY.

The existence of the Military State Agency at Washington terminated on the 31st day of July last, at which time the appropriation for the payment of its expenses was exhausted. Much benefit resulted to many of the soldiers of our State, and their representatives, from this office, in which their just dues from the United States Government were collected and transmitted to them free of charge. In August, after the agency ceased to exist, there still remained a considerable number of unsettled claims, and as no one knew more about their condition, or could possibly obtain an earlier settlement of them than the late agent, Col. Cook, I permitted him, upon his own offer, to close up the business of the office, and to transact any other business with the soldiers of Pennsylvania at *one-half the fees* that are charged by any other private agency in Washington City. This arrangement has thus far been carried out, and I am pleased to add, with very general satisfaction. All the books and papers of the agency will be transferred to the office of the Adjutant General.

REGISTRY LAW.

At the last session of the Legislature an act was passed known as the "Registry Law," the intention of which was to protect the ballot-box against corruption and fraudulent voting, to which it has for many years been disgracefully exposed. This law seems to have been so defective in some of its provisions as to have received the condemnation of a majority of the Supreme Court, by which it was pronounced "incongruous and unconstitutional." At the election immediately after this decision, it is alleged that frauds were perpetrated, surpassing in magnitude, perhaps, any that have been consummated heretofore in the history of the Commonwealth. These frauds have demonstrated the necessity of the passage of some law, or laws, that will accomplish the desired object, without being subject to the exceptionable features pointed out by the learned gentlemen who pronounced the opinion of the Supreme Bench.

There is no subject of such vital importance to the whole country as the sanctity of the ballot-box, and the protection of all citizens in their right to the elective franchise. This right is our proudest boast. It endows the American citizen with a freedom and a power not possessed by the subject of any other government. It makes him the peer of his fellow man, whatever may be his rank, station, or position in life. To be deprived of it by any means whatever, his boasted freedom becomes a sham—his especial and exalted prerogative a mockery and a farce. What avails it to the citizen that he is entitled to a vote, if that vote is to be nullified by fraud? Such guards, then, should be thrown around the polls as will effectually, if possible, preserve them from the taint of a single illegal vote. Not only should false voting be severely punished, but false swearing to obtain a vote, be visited with the pains and penalties of perjury and with perpetual disfranchisement.

The people must be perfectly free to regulate their public business in their own way, and when the voice of the majority is fairly and clearly expressed all should bow to it as the voice of God. They are the sovereign rulers, and their will must be the law of the land. Corruption of suffrage in a republican government is the deadliest crime that can be perpetrated; it is assassination of the sovereignty of the people, and will be followed by a despotism, the motive power of which will be money and perjury. And if this privilege be tampered with, sooner or later the sure and indignant popular condemnation will be rendered and condign punishment administered. All good citizens, of whatever political opinion, should lend their aid for the accomplishment of any and every measure that may tend to secure each voter, not only his right to the elective franchise, but the assurance that his vote will not be rendered valueless by illegality, corruption or fraud.

Every proper facility for the naturalization of citizens of foreign birth should be afforded; but the Legislature, in its combined wisdom, can surely enact some mode to prevent the possibility of a single vote being cast upon spurious naturalization papers, and thus fully secure the purity of the elective franchise.

REVISION OF THE CIVIL CODE.

The commissioners appointed to codify the statute laws of the State have diligently prosecuted the work assigned them and with every prospect that it will be fully completed within the time prescribed by the legislative resolutions of April 3, 1868; and in further compliance with them, they will cause to be laid before each branch of the General Assembly, at its present session, various titles of bills, with brief abstracts of the several sections of each, which have been matured.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

Among the subjects of importance to the citizens of Pennsylvania is the establishment of an Insurance Department. Such departments are in successful operation in several neighboring States, by means of which the interests of insurers are guarded and promoted. So careful a supervision is had over the transactions of insurance companies that frauds are rendered almost impossible, and spurious companies can have no existence. The result of the protection thus afforded, is, that whilst foreign companies, thus protected, do immense business in this State, so little confidence is had in those of Pennsylvania that their business is almost entirely confined within the state limits; and lately some of them have withdrawn their agencies from other States, because no risk will be taken, in consequence of the inadequacy of the laws to afford protection to insurers. To this defect, moreover, many be attributed the operations of the number of worthless companies which have suddenly sprung up, without any solid basis, and as suddenly expired, to the injury of all whose confidence they obtained, and to the dishonor of the Commonwealth. Whilst Pennsylvania insurance companies transact little business outside of the State, it is alleged that foreign life insurance companies alone paid taxes last year on $12,000,000 of premiums received in Pennsylvania, a great proportion of which would be confined to this State if the same protection was given by law to its citizens as is afforded by other States. The report of the Insurance Department of New York, published in 1867, shows that the companies which were doing business in 1866, in Pennsylvania, and also in New York, had risks in force for more than five thousand million of dollars; and it is believed that the risks in Pennsylvania companies, which, for want of a proper Insurance Department, cannot be obtained, would swell the amount to over six thousand million.

In view of these facts, and of the costly experience of the people who have been imposed upon and defrauded by unsubstantial and ephemeral companies, I repeat the recommendation made to the Legislature at its last session, that an Insurance Department be established, and a superintendent appointed by law, who shall have supervision and control over all insurance companies allowed to transact business within the State, and annually publish, under oath, full reports of their transactions. The community is deeply interested in this matter, and demands the protection which can thus only be afforded.

NEW HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

The commissioners appointed by an act of the last sessi on "to establish an additional State Hospital for the Insane," have notified me that they will present a report of their proceedings sometime during the present month, which will be communicated when received.

DAMAGES BY RAIDS.

In accordance with an act of the last session, providing for an investigation and adjudication of the claims of citizens of several counties "whose property was destroyed, damaged or appropriated for public service, and in the common defence in the war to suppress the rebellion," a commission of three competent gentlemen was appointed, who have performed the allotted duties, and will soon make a full report of their transactions.

PARIS EXPOSITION.

I have received through the Secretary of State of the United States, a bronze medal and diploma from the Imperial Commissioners for the best specimens of Pennsylvania anthracite coal exhibited at the Paris Exposition in 1867. These tributes to an important branch of the internal resources of Pennsylvania have been assigned a place among other valuable relics in the Executive Chamber.

STATE COAT OF ARMS.

Dilligent but unsuccessful search has been repeatedly made for the coat of arms of the State, and for the authority under which the present design was established It seems that for years past no trace of either the original authority or design could any where be found, and it is recommended that the Legislature take the necessary steps to supply the commission, by such means as they in their wisdom shall determine.

STATE BENEFICIARIES.

A number of benevolent, charitable and other institutions annually receive appropriations from the State for their support. These appropriations, in most, if not in all cases, appear to have been adequate for the purposes to which it was intended they should be applied, and are as liberal as can reasonably be expected in the present condition of the Treasury of the State.

THE SUSQUEHANNA FISHERIES.

A preliminary report on the Susquehanna fisheries has been submitted by Col. James Worrall, Civil Engineer, Commissioner under the act of the Legislature in reference thereto. There are some facts which should be embodied in the report, but which can not be ascertained until early in January. Permission, has therefore been granted to the Commissioner, at his request, to postpone the submission of his regular report until the earliest day practicable during the present month.

CATTLE DISEASE.

The prevalence of contagious or epidemic diseases among cattle and other animals has for some years past been a prolific scource of anxiety and alarm among the producers and consumers of meats in many of the States. It was therefore deemed important to call a convention of competent persons to take into consideration the means best calculated to remedy this great and growing evil. This convention, composed of three commissioners each from the fourteen States represented, appointed in accordance with an agreement by the several Governors, assembled at Springfield, Illinois, on the first of December last, and an account of their transactions is herewith presented.

Without legislature authority, but believing my action would be sanctioned by the people's representatives, I appointed Dr. Hirman Corson and Messrs. E. C. Humes and A. Boyd Hamilton, commissioners to represent Pennsylvania in that convention. These gentlemen freely gave their time and experience, and also incurred a pecuniary expense of about three hundred dollars, to defray which I recommend that an appropriation be made.

STATISTICS.

In view of the vast amount and great variety of the products of the State, a desk for the collection of statistics, relative to exports and imports, agriculture, manufactures, coal, iron, oil, lumber, &c., might, with propriety and profit, be established. This could be accomplished by the employment of a competent clerk, under the supervision of one of the present heads of department, whose duty should be to collect and publish such facts as might tend to stimulate and increase our productive energies, instill new life and vigor into our manufacturing interests, lead to more accurate knowledge of all our internal resources and the proper methods for their development. There is abundant space in the Capitol buildings to be appropriated as a receptacle for books, papers, mineralogical and geological specimens, and other articles that might be contributed appropriate to such a department and which in a few years would form an invaluable collection. Under legislature direction, the good results would be almost incalculable, and are required by the progressive spirit of the age in which we live.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE.

Your attention is called to the accompanying joint resolutions, passed at the last session of the Vermont Legislature, bearing a just tribute to the late Hon. Thaddeus Stevens. Joint resolutions from the same body are also sent you, which I regard as worthy of your consideration, relative to the act of Congress "to establish and protect National Cemeteries," and recommending "to the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania the passage of an act empowering the board of commissioners having charge of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg, to transfer all the right, title, interest and care of said Soldiers' National Cemetery to the General Government, upon the completion of the same."

IN MEMORIAM.

It has been the misfortune of the State during the past year to lose by death two of her representatives in the Congress of the nation, Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, of the Ninth, and Hon. Darwin A. Finney, of the Twentieth District. Both were natives of Vermont, but in early life selected Pennsylvania for their home, and identified themselves with her interests, which they were chosen to guard in the Legislature; and the people of the Commonwealth will long remember with gratitude their faithful and efficient services. The first went down to his grave after a long life of public usefulness and in well matured honors; the other in the prime of manhood, which gave promise of a scarcely less brilliant career.

PARDONS.

The list of pardons issued during the past year will be found among the papers to which your attention is called. The principal reasons upon which they were based, and the names of some of the prominent petitioners, are given in every case. That a few of these pardons may have been unworthily granted, through misrepresentations of relatives, friends, sympathizing neighbors and other interested parties, there is no doubt, but in the majority of instances it is certain that the facts not only justified but demanded Executive clemency.

The whole number of applications for pardons during the year has been 1623. The number of pardons granted in that time has been 106, which is a little over 6½ per cent. Of those pardoned about 5 per cent. have been again brought before the courts in consequence of their return to the commission of crime.

I am fully impressed with the weighty responsibility of the pardoning power, which ranks among the most difficult and embarrassing duties of the Executive office. Daily beset with powerful and pitiful importunities, as well as conflicting representations, from those in whom he should be enabled to place the fullest confidence, in order to avoid errors in the decision of any case, the Governor is compelled to take into consideration the action of the court before which the convict has been tried; the majesty of the law which may or may not have been violated; the condition of the prisioner; his temptation to err; the injury that may be inflicted upon his helpless and dependent relatives, and the arguments and appeals of citizens whose opinions and wishes he is bound to respect. And however just his decision and humane and generous his action, either in favor of or against the petitioner for clemency, he must expect to have his motives impunged, his name and character maligned, and to suffer virulent attacks for the exercise of this most important and merciful prerogative.

The pardon report will exhibit that many instances in which Executive clemency has been invoked, youthful prisoners, charged with their first offences, and those of a trivial character, have been the recipients. The object of punishment, in all cases, should not be so much to inflict pain as to reform the sufferer and prevent the repetition of evil deeds. This fact is frequently lost sight of in imposing punishment upon criminals, especially when inexperienced youths are shut up in close cells with men hardened in crime, where its arts are daily taught and a romance throwa around its commission. Instead of being improved, they come forth at the expiration of their terms of sentence with the loss of self-respect, their moral sentiments blunted, and prepared to practice upon society the infamous lessons they have learned. Such punishments tend to increase rather than lessen the quantity of crime. When houses of correction and reformatories are constructed, or a proper system of confinement and prison discipline is adopted, there will be a material decrease of crime, and comparatively few cases to demand the exercise of the pardoning power.

COMMUTATION OF SENTENCES.

There are confined in the Philadelphia county prison the following named convicts, under sentence of death, for whose execution warrants have not been issued: Edward Ford, sentenced May 12, 1851; Jerry Dixon, May 30, 1863; Patrick Finnegan, February 9, 1863; Newton Champion, December 1, 1866, and Alfred Alexander and Hester Vaughn, July 3, 1868. Successive Governors, for satisfactory reasons, have declined to order the execution of these persons. The law requires that they shall be executed in accordance with the sentence, unconditionally pardoned, or held in close confinement in the county jail during life. The latter punishment, with the additional embitterment constantly preying upon the mind that a death warrant may at any moment be issued, is, perhaps, the severest that could be inflicted. It would be both just and merciful to give the Governor authority to commute the sentence of death in the above named cases to imprisonment, at labor, in the penitentiary, for such a term of years as the ameliorating circumstances may seem to justify and demand. One of the convicts named has been imprisoned about eighteen years, and although it might not be advisable to set him at liberty, humanity and the ends of justice require the commutation of his sentence in the manner suggested.

CONCLUSION.

The foregoing subjects have been deemed of sufficient importance to submit at the present time for your information and consideration. Others may occur before the close of the session which may be worthy of special communication. It will be my constant care and determination to co-operate with you in the prosecution of any measures that may tend to preserve and increase the prosperity of the State and the happiness of its people, with the firm belief that your united wisdom will aim constantly to promote these desirable results.

Many of the events that have transpired since my last annual communication to the Legislature have been unusually interesting and significant. They have been infinitely more than political, and bear directly upon the great interests and most sacred destinies of the nation. Apart from the vindication of the principles of the party which sustained the government and the army during the contest for the preservation of the Union, and the election to the Presidency of the first soldier of the age, is the fact that the people have by triumphant majorities forever settled our controversy upon certain fundamental principles. Parties may and undoubtedly will arise upon other issues, but there can be no future struggle about slavery. Involuntary servitude, as a monopoly of labor, is forever destroyed. The monster obstacle to the national progress has been removed, and henceforward all the faculties of our people can be developed "without let or hinderance." The fair and exuberantly fertile States of the South, heretofore comparatively retrogressive and unproductive, relieved from this terrible curse, with the influx of northern immigration and capital, will soon become the rivals of their northern sister States in all the arts of peace, and additional markets will be developed in which to exchange the varied products of the heretofore hostile sections.

Hardly less magical has been the effect upon other nations. General Grant's election has confirmed the hopes of our nation's friends, and the fears of its foes in the Old World. It supplements and seals the verdict of arms and the progress of republican principles. The downfall of the rebellion in the United States was quickly followed by the great civil revolution in England; the peaceful expulsion of the last of the Bourbons from Spain; the unrest of Cuba; the concession of more liberable principles in Germany; and the necessary acquiescence of the Emperor of the French in the republican sentiments he fears even as he has betrayed them. What are these but the echoes of the dire catastrophe that has overwhelmed aristocracy in the United States?

Notwithstanding the importance of the issues involved in the late canvass, and the bitterness of feeling as well as the earnestness with which it was conducted, its termination has happily met with the acquiescence of nearly the whole people; and at no time in the history of the nation has there been opened before us a brighter prospect of continued peace and increasing prosperity; and we have no greater cause for universal congratulation than that no differences of opinion now exist that can materially mar our national happiness, retard our onward progress, or threaten the peace or perpetuity of our government.

In conclusion, permit me to remark that the voice of Pennsylvania, as well as that of a majority of the States, has at the ballot-box proclaimed to the world that all our national indebtedness, no matter how heavy the burden, will be paid according to "the letter and spirit" of the agreements made and entered into at the time the debt was contracted; and that in this as in all other respects our individual and national honor "must and shall be preserved;" that we are determined by all honorable means in our power to secure ample encouragement and protection to each and every branch of Home Industry, and every manly enterprise that contributes capital, labor, skill and industry to our material wealth, social advancement and political tranquillity; that for all our citizens, the children of the Commonwealth, being also citizens of the United States, we demand the fullest protection, in their persons, their property, and in all their rights and privileges